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Concern

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Cover Photo

Sallie, in the door, is 15. She recently moved to Columbus, Ohio with her family. During the recent sixth annual national Christian Witness Mission in Columbus, Sallie was visited by two MYF'ers who wanted to know about her church relationships. Her family attends, said Sallie, but does not belong.

For the result of this youth-to-youth visit, and for more facts about what Christian Witness Missions are accomplishing around the country, see CONCERN's special round-up story beginning on page 3.

Methodism is moving ahead in its goal to win 500,000 youth to Christ by the time of General Conference—now only a year and three weeks away.

Forum

AN INDIAN SPEAKS

Sirs:

Many misunderstandings exist in the thinking of our fellow-men concerning the "kind of people" the American Indians are. I would like to make a brief statement as to some of the valuable assets of the early Indian culture as seen in the lives of Indians today.

One of the oustanding effects that early Indian culture has on the lives of Indians today is the fact that one will always find an Indian humble. From early in his life, an Indian learns to be hospitable. He shows his humbleness in other's homes and his hospitality to whomever may enter his home. He always accepts a gift with the greatest appreciation, no matter what the value of the gift. Giving is the way all Indians show their love and friendship for one another.

From early in life an Indian learns to be strong in spirit. Once a friendship is formed, he always keeps the tie strong. Besides being strong in spirit and in friendship, the Indian will be loyal to and uphold the cause he knows to be for the betterment of his people.

Thomas Roughface
Ponca Indian Tribe
Student at Oklahoma City University

FIRST CLASS PICTURE

Sirs:

Protestants have long bemoaned the fact that Hollywood has not made a first class picture they could support with any degree of enthusiasm. This situation is now remedied.

The motion picture industry is releasing "A Man Called Peter" to which all Protestants can point with pride. All of us here at Broadcasting and Films feel that this is one of the finest. We believe that once you see it you will want to support it.

You can show your appreciation to the movie makers for the millions of dollars spent in this first rate production by making mention of it . .

Your support will insure that it will not be so long a time between good Protestant pictures.

Arthur Austin
Broadcasting and Film Commission
National Council of Churches
New York City

—This new CinemaScope film is the life story of Peter Marshall, famed pastor of New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, and before his death chaplain of the United States Senate. Mrs. Jesse M. Bader national chairman of the Protestant Motion Picture Council, says the story "is skillfully presented. The casting acting, settings and the color photography are wonderfully impressive." She calls it a stimulating and beautiful film.

Concern

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Witness projects sweep the country

NEWS

What are Methodist youth doing these days?

All kinds of things. They are meeting Sunday after Sunday in church school classes and evening fellowships. They are planning Easter observances and writing servicemen. They are visiting the sick and planning summer projects.

But one answer to that big question possibly sets the pace and direction of a new movement that is catching hold of the MYF at the heart of its life and experience. That answer: Christian Witness Missions.

Years ago, when youth leaders and church executives got excited about work camps of evangelism, they broadened the idea into what they began calling Christian Witness Missions, no one would have dreamed that this plan would become a nation-wide movement among all kinds of Methodist youth groups.

Now it has. Day after day Nashville offices receive reports, pictures and clippings from local churches, subdistricts, districts and conferences about their latest efforts. Anyone who tries to evaluate what is happening among Methodist youth today must consider two things for sure: a deepening of faith, as evidenced in the Lenten reading projects of the MYF, and an all-out effort to win youth to Christ, as seen in the many Christian Witness Missions across the country.

National leaders also report real progress in efforts to improve the MYF, especially at the point of enlisting and training more adult workers. At least, more adults are conscious of the needs of youth in these critical times.

Underlying framework for all this activity and effort, of course, is the Youth Emphasis. In this special program, Methodism has sought to do its basic task wtih youth: deepen faith, win youth to Christ, and improve the MYF.

Statistics and news reports on the latest Christian Witness Missions give evidence of greater things to come in the Methodist Youth Fellowship in the days ahead.

National Mission Wins 835

As reported in the 18 March CONCERN, the national Christian Witness Mission conference and workshop held in Columbus, Ohio, February 24-28 brought in 835 new members for the MYF. Most of the new members were found principally in the Columbus district, although some teams of youth made calls and talked to youth as far away as Springfield and Cleveland.

Final count: 895 visitors interviewed 2055 prospects. Including the new MYF members, 1229 persons signed commitment cards signifying their desire to join the church. Of this number, 652 were first professions of faith and 93 were transfers from other churches.

Key factor in the success of the

CONCERN's cover girl is visited by two youth from the national C. W. M., Sydney Pinkston, 17, of Fayette, Tenn., and Susie Burt, 15, of Columbus. Said Sid: "We need you in the MYF and we believe that you need us, but we don't want you to sign a commitment card unless you feel that need in your heart." That night, Sallie made a commitment.

Columbus mission as elsewhere is the ability of youth to do evangelism far better than they expected of themselves. Youth get caught by the spirit of the mission and rise to new levels of insight and speak surprisingly clearly on the meaning of their faith and the life to be found in Jesus Christ.

South Dakota Reports

Strange things took place in Mitchell, S.D., March 11-12. MYF'ers got young people practically out of bed early Saturday morning to talk to them about their faith. One team went out into the country, climbed up on top of a corn pile to secure a commitment from a high school boy. Two girls stopped a sandlot basketball game and secured commitments to Christ from youth for whom they had no prospect cards.

It was the weekend of the South Dakota Conference MYF's first Christian Witness Mission. Conference officers, 12 district and subdistrict counselors, along with 30 youth from subdistricts throughout South Dakota met with 40 Mitchell youth in the pilot project. Key leaders were Glenn Mingledorff of the Youth Department staff, host pastor Robert Wagner, conference director Ronald Hartung, and Karen Bergman, conference witness chairman.

Results in one day of calling: 29 first commitments, 39 new members enrolled in the MYF, 18 youth desiring to enroll in membership training, and a new enthusiasm among the 88 youth and counselors who took part. Plans are to have more missions in order to reach youth throughout the state.

Maine Afire

The woods of Maine were aflame with young people wtih burning hearts, even though the earth was covered with snow and ice. Youth of that state helped carry the Christian witness movement to their corner of the nation.

Pilot missions in each of the three districts aroused youth to a level of activity and interest that is unparalleled in New England Methodism, reports conference director Bill Wright of Bangor. Hazel Gray, conference MYF president. has spear-headed the effort to recruit new members through personal youth-to-youth visitation evangelism. In the first of the missions in Augusta, she was first to report a commitment and joyfully confessed she got more out of it than the person making the commitment.

The mission in Aroostook County brought Roman Catholic, Baptist and Episcopal young people to work with the Methodists in listing prospects and visiting their own the same weekend.

Roy Moody, Bangor district director, said that "the MYF council has taken over with real enthusiasm and leadership. The Youth Emphasis is really alive now in Maine." He reported that a series of fall rallies with Miss Emeline Crane of the Nashville staff were big and effective.

New Jersey Looks Ahead

Conference executive secretary Clyde A. Schaff personally directed the Christian Witness Mission in New Jersey and reported that 92 churches participated, securing 559 new commitments and winning 1494 new members for the Methodist Youth Fellowship. He is asking other churches in the conference to plan missions now. If all

Howard Ellis of the Board of Evangelism staff and chairman of the Columbus C.W.M. shows the flip chart he prepared to Russell Pace (left) who headed up the Lexington Conference delegation and Clare Ingham (center), Ohio Conference director of youth work.

372 churches had participated with the same results as the 92 obtained, the MYF would now be 6000 members larger.

North Carolina by Subdistricts

The program is aimed at local churches, but the channel of operation is the subdistrict in the North Carolina Conference. Rural churches are especially active there. Good example is the Alamance Circuit in the Burlington District, which has five rural churches. In their C.W.M. the youth made 45 visits and won 23 youth to Christ and the church. As 1954 ended, conference-wide totals were well past 1500 interviews and 1000 members for the MYF.

Last month was the time for the Peninsula Conference mission. Training sessions were held in Milford under the direction of Howell O. Wilkins, conference director of youth work. They worked in the Eastern District March 5-6, the Wilmington District, March 12-13, Salisbury, March 19-20, and Dover, March 26-27.

In the Peninsula Conference young people and adults are working together in teams. Indications of their thoroughness comes from first scattered reports: Wilmington District had 39 people visiting 49 of the 55 charges, and Easton District had 26 people in 21 of the 47 charges.

Success in Alabama

Reports from the Florence District mission held February 25-27 bring three interesting comments: biggest difficulty was with parents who have filled their youth with a resistance to the church that is hard to overcome; mission accomplished more in suburban churches than in downtown churches; and the weekend was very meaningful for participating youth who came in from rural and small-town churches. About 60 youth made about 225 calls, won five on profession of faith, four by transfer, and 39 new members for the MYF.

Second weekend in March, MYFs in the Port Huron, Mich. District sent representatives to First church in Mount Clemens for a three-day mission. Calls were made in Mount Clemens, New Haven, Utica and Richmond. The district MYF council directed the project.

Reports in Brief

A pilot mission in Muskogee, Okla. the week of March 3 set the stage for missions in local churches to be held last weekend. District youth director John Russell and district superintendent Don LaGrone were in charge.

In the New York East conference, 20 churches cooperated in a pilot mission held March 18-20 around Hempstead, Long Island. Two districts on the island worked together. The following weekend, the Hartford, Conn. and New York districts held pilot missions.

Next fall will bring subdistrict and local church missions throughout the conference.

This weekend, a mission is underway in Tyler of the Texas Conference and next Sunday night the St. Louis Subdistrict of the Central West Conference is closing its mission with a youth rally.

Reports are coming in from all over, and the statistics are very encouraging —not for their own value, but for what they indicate of a new enthusiasm and vitality in the MYF.

At Clark's Chapel in Oklahoma City youth and adults from the Indian Mission Conference came together in a C.W.M., made 62 calls, held 68 interviews, won 10 commitments, 7 transfers of membership, and 11 new members for the MYF among Indian families of the city.

Churches set ICU Sunday

Christian world brotherhood will be demonstrated by churches throughout America on Sunday, June 19, in a joint morning worship service held in conjunction with the chapel service on the campus of International Christian University near Tokyo, Japan.

Designated as "ICU Sunday," the observance marks the actual founding of the university on June 15, 1949. Theme of this year's celebration is "ICU and Christian World Brotherhood."

The University is partially supported by foreign mission boards of fourteen major denominations in the United States and Canada, including the Board of Missions of The Methodist Church. Special messages and materials for worship are being written for use in American churches on the special day. (See Views.)

Methodists face racial problems

Complex problems of changing communities were faced at an interracial Methodist conference in Chicago's Woodlawn church early last month.

Some 117 delegates, about equally divided between Negro and white races, came from nine mid-western states to talk together in fellowship about many of the hard problems that seem to block progress in building brotherhood. Specifically, they gave major attention to six Methodist churches in changing neighborhoods.

The conference was jointly sponsored by the Board of Social and Economic Relations and two episcopal leaders—Bishop Matthew W. Clair of the St. Louis Area and Bishop Charles W. Brashares of the Chicago Area.

While no resolutions were adopted, the conference did make several suggestions for closer cooperation between Negro and white Methodists. They called for greater flexibility in each local church; integrated programs in annual conferences, including youth camps; and greater interdenominational cooperation along interracial lines. Many in the conference urged elimination of the Central Jurisdiction as soon as possible.

Churches continue UMT opposition

As this issue goes to press, Congress has taken no action on current bills which would bring a system of compulsory military training to this country. H. R. 2967 is expected to be brought to the floor of the House of Representatives any day.

Several church leaders are suggesting that opposition to current bills must be expressed—now or never. Individuals and groups who wait longer may not be heard at all.

Key opportunity for registering Christian opinion is with certain members of the House Armed Services subcommittee. Some members of the committee have received very few letters in opposition to UMT, and churchmen are urged to write at least the following persons: Rep. Overton Brooks (Democrat, Louisiana, author of the bill), Rep. Arthur Winstead (D, Mississippi), Rep. O. C. Fisher (D, Texas) and Rep. Victor Wickersham (D, Oklahoma).

An excellent summary statement of what official church representatives said in testimonies before the House Armed Services committee is found in the March 23 issue of *The Christian Century*.

A prominent Methodist who gave official testimony was Dr. Charles F. Boss, Jr., executive secretary of the Board of World Peace of The Methodist Church. He told the committee: "The use of such words as 'voluntary' and 'enlistment' is a misnomer. The system is a *compulsory* system within which there are options." He stated the official position of the church as voted by the 1952 General Conference and quoted from statements passed by the Council of Bishops and the Board of World Peace.

"Any system designed to hold youth for military indoctrination and training over a ten year period, or even for eight years, smacks of a purpose to permanently condition the mind, emotions, conduct, and character of American youth," Dr. Boss said. "The church has a deep interest and stake in opposing the adoption of such plans as are contained in the proposed UMT reserve plan."

a Christian school

Relatively few educational institutions in missionary areas can claim a one-hundred per cent Christian faculty. One of the exceptions to the general rule is the new International Christian University in Japan. Every single one of the faculty members belongs to the Christian church.

This faculty achievement may be a mark of distinction, and a very valuable asset, but it is not the only one-hundred per cent characteristic.

The curriculum is also fully Christian. This means that at the very heart of studies at I.C.U. is a distinctive Christian orientation. Students are led to view every subject through the eyes of a Christian. This is not done in any narrow sense, but with understanding and in the desire to discover truth.

Moreover, the religious emphasis program at the International Christian University is *Christian*. While there is absolute religious freedom at I.C.U., with more non-Christian students than Christians, the general atmosphere is Christian. No student is compelled to attend chapel, but just about all of them do of their own choice. And while there is no basis of proselytizing on the campus, it is hoped and expected that many of the students will want to become Christians.

One other important point should be emphasized. In Japan the word "Christian" in the title of the university is especially appreciated. In Japan they want it to be a Christian institution, and are pleased with the cross on the I. C. U. chapel which can be seen from miles around. The International Christian University is not just another school; it is a distinctly *Christian* school of the highest order.

VIEWS

way for the world

If Mother does it: It's example.

If Mother and Father and Neighbors do it: That's environment.

If everybody does it, including the television: That's a culture or way of life, or ritual of daily living.

The big struggle of our day is whether the future world culture shall be godless or Christian. That battle is being fought but on television, in magazines, and in the supposedly unrecorded daily deeds of millions of people. They create the way of doing things which we call custom. Jesus demonstrated the right way to live and said, "I am the way."

Millions of people imagine you can determine the culture by simply laying down a law or code or book of etiquette. But a culture is determined by the way people lay down their lives daily. Our danger is that, though we may honor the way of Christ in our speech, we may follow the folk-ways around us in the way we do our deeds.

Today the Christian Church is trying to educate people to see the Christian way of living as opposed to, and differing from, all others. It seeks to make clear how we can follow the Christian way of walking with a living Christ. For only when millions of us daily live the way of Christ shall we develop a world Christian culture.

—Bishop Charles W. Brashares

Are we willing to pay the price?

Every gardener understood what Jesus meant when he remarked, "Figs are not gathered from thorns, and grapes are not plucked from a bramble-bush." Paul said it less graphically when he reminded the churches of Galatia, "Make no mistake—God is not mocked—a man will reap just what he sows."

That formula has not changed through the centuries; it is as true for a nation or a culture as for a man. What we sow, what we brew, what we put in the social potpourri, will determine what will bless or curse us.

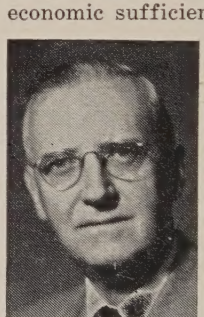
We know well—too well for our comfort—the ingredients of war. Abstractly we call them pride and arrogance, greed becoming injustice and self-aggrandizement, fear spawning hate and counter-fear and terror. Concretely these ingredients show themselves as colonialism, political tyranny, imperialism, social and economic inequalities and injustices and hungers, discrepancies in living standards, exploitation of men and resources, threats of force, armaments and military control (conscription, "the military mind") because of fear, rabble-rousing, lies . . . cold war, hot war.

Concern Feature

In terms of religion and morality, these are *sins*. When he faces them in the abstract, the Christian (and many a non-Christian) condemns them. The church is dedicated to their eradication; it prays divine forgiveness for them. But too often, the Christian and the church fail until dangerously late to recognize them in the concrete.

We know, too, the ingredients of peace. They also have familiar-sounding names: humility, patience, faith, hope, brotherliness, service, sharing, love. Every Christian, every American, and, I am sure, the great majority of the world's people would say they believe in all these abstract attitudes. But when we come to *applying* them to concrete situations, we back away from the cost, we withhold too many of the necessary elements . . . and the result is something other than peace.

For the concrete translation of these terms, if peace is to be achieved, will mean: men must actively and incessantly *plan* to promote understanding of those with whom they differ; they must be willing to openly and honestly *discuss* (as in the UN) their differences and bend every effort to reach agreement and mutual good-will; they must *plan* so that all people will have a fair share of the world's food, and goods, and technical know-how; they must *work for* and *guarantee* political self-determination, social equality and economic sufficiency for every nation; and they must *remove* all social and economic roadblocks that produce fear, and threat, and reprisal. "They" are Americans, and Russians, and English, and Chinese, and French, and Africans — *beginning with me and mine.*



Reid

Sometimes—when I think of the recipe for peace and listen to what is being said in the halls of government—I shudder. Where is Christianity, where is statesmanship, where is the long look and the understanding appraisal in the oratory, the headlines, the decisions of state?

Yesterday a senator announced, "We enjoy the highest living standards ever known in the world—and we're going to double it in the next decade!" At whose expense? And what of the exploited billion who go to bed hungry every night in Asia and Africa?

Now we talk of conscription "to build an army to assure the peace"—

as if we had never read history! How careless we are of our international bed-fellows—a democrat today, an oppressor of millions tomorrow, if it be politically expedient. "Diplomacy" now seems to be based on an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a threat for a threat, and a promise of greater terror for each terror . . .

Yes, we want peace. We talk about it. We pray for it. We know of what it is compounded. But are we willing to pay for it? Or are we going to continue to sow the things that always did and always will reap war?

—BY W.W. REID

Youth speaks

On peace

I should like to write a little about peace. When we look at the present world, we find it distinctly divided into two parts and see that the communist camp and the liberal camp are facing each other with much tension. A new war is on the point of breaking out in Formosa. We Japanese who have experienced the worthless misery of World War II know that a war can never be a means of settling trouble. We know we must hope for peace and love it.

It seems that both America and Soviet Russia know the futility and the fear of war. This is shown by the antagonistic peace that has been kept, though there have been many troubles which could have been a sufficient cause of war. But there has been only an unreal peace. Each part of the world has been producing armaments and making atomic or hydrogen bombs. In the past, war gave profit to a certain degree to a victorious country. In the future, it will give no profit but lead all to ruin and destruction. We must avoid war absolutely; we must not spare in our efforts for peace.

Soviet Russia may be a terrible state. Having finished the revolution, her aim always has been to make the whole world Red and she has used any means for doing it. But I think there are too few chances to talk between the two camps. Prejudices and ignorances beget only animosities.

Japan has a most advanced constitution, of which she can be proud before the world. It says Japan must not have troops and has no right to fight against any other country. So we call it the "peace constitution." In reality, however, she has an army and navy, though many people do not desire them. Many poor or unemployed young men go to enlist, unwillingly. And some politicians are thinking they may convert the "peace constitution." But I hope the day will come when every country will have a constitution with the spirit of Japan's.

We cannot help saying there is a deep-rooted spirit in human nature that urges us to knock others down in order to get ahead. But I believe that to try to achieve real peace is a duty imposed on us by God. Hoping for peace is not enough; to achieve real peace requires much sacrifice and I think Christians must willingly become the foundation stone of peace.

—BY SHIGEO HASHIMOTO

Some thoughts and a task!

As every daily paper reminds us, these are critical days. Rumors of hot wars continue to spread, and military machines grow more awesome in size and power. UMT hangs heavy like a dark cloud over the peaceful tradition of the American people.

What is the church doing?

Methodist youth are writing letters to Congressmen and talking about UMT. The Methodist Church is gaining momentum in its Crusade for World Order. CONCERN continues to seek ways of stimulating thought on UMT and positive ways of building for world peace. Mr. Reid's article presents many good thoughts for Christian youth. And the "youth speaks" article is an excellent statement.

Shigeo Hashimoto is a high school senior at Chinzei high school, Nagasaki Japan. His ideas are representative of at least a part of Japanese youth. Shigeo is a former president of a Christian youth group at the high school and is the only student among a class of 250 who is planning to study for the ministry.

The task for American youth: to write and speak their thoughts. May we hear from you?

This is your world

Mr. Nixon goes abroad

It must be said that on his recent trip through Central America and the Caribbean, Vice President Richard M. Nixon often acted in good taste, with a sensitive appreciation of Latin American feelings. He proved himself, on the whole, a helpful emissary for the building of better understanding among peoples and for economic progress.

Spokesmen for communism, naturally, didn't think so. That Mexican hater of everything about the United States, Vicente Lombardo Toledano, gave voice to an almost unprecedented savagery. Lombardo, who says he isn't a Communist, but who is often far out in front of Moscow, wrote in *El Popular* that Nixon was "an inspector for the North American Empire of its colonies in this region of the world." He put into the Vice President's mouth things he didn't say, such as that Mexico ought to open the gates to North American capital without any limitations. And when the press showed friendliness toward the U.S., Lombardo accused it of "pathological servility" —which any regular reader of it knows is stretching a generally critical press attitude out of all proportion.

There were moments when Nixon was unfortunately glib in facing problems and tossing off answers to them. It was scarcely tuned to the ears of Latin Americans when he declared in El Salvador they ought to watch the U. S. to see how effectively it had remedies for poverty. At times, Nixon is undeniably naive. Yet, because he behaved unpretentiously, the opposite of a stuffed shirt, he won friends. True, Latin Americans want more than sentimental good will; but no matter what else they like, they value also the human attribute of warmth.

Concern Feature

Truly encouraging results have followed his visits to Nicaragua and Costa Rica. The governments of those countries, poles apart in aims and methods, have moved fast toward the only degree of reconciliation possible—agreements, especially on the part of Dictator Somoza, to quit needling and conspiring. Differences such as those between a Somoza and a Figueres can't be eliminated easily, and in all moral decency ought not to be. But democracy, not dictatorship, is apt to be the loser in an atmosphere of constant war threats and subversion.

In concrete particulars what Nixon urged on Washington, from the things he learned, makes sense. The Pan American Highway, he said, should speedily be completed, through more aid from the United States — which ever since Roosevelt's Good Neighbor program has tended to stall. Nixon's comments about this were actually sharp. When he called for greater private investment in Latin American lands, he was merely duplicating the cry that goes up from nearly all of them—though he might, wisely, have emphasized the need for safeguards felt below the border. His recommendation of efforts to reduce trade barriers will fall on more receptive minds in Latin American, judging by the past, then in Congress—yet Nixon put the burden for lowering tariffs and quotas primarily on his own country and by inference on his own party.

A bit starry-eyed was his plea for a Central American federation, for if anything prevents this now, it is the moral support vouchsafed to martinets and dictators in that area by Washington itself. This has largely been rejected by his colleagues in the Administration, and the usefulness of his mission, at long last, will be determined less by his sincerity than his persuasive powers. For some of what he wants, Washington is a foreign, not to say to hostile, country. Maybe he'll need to do a little hand-shaking speech-making, and good will propaganda among the cabinet members and in the corridors of the Senate office building.

—BY DEVERE ALLEN

Time to plan for fall action project in the Youth Emphasis

TOWARD CHRISTIAN WORLD COMMUNITY is the theme for the action project in the Youth Emphasis this fall. It will begin on World Order Sunday, October 23, and will be climaxed on Sunday, December 11, the day after Human Rights Day. The action project deals with missions, world peace and overseas relief.

Some of the Sunday morning and evening studies and discussions are related to the three phases of the action project. For instance, during October Sunday mornings seniors will discuss "The World Mission of Our Church." In the evenings during October seniors and older youth will discuss "Religions of the World" and "Religious Liberty for the World." In November there will be two Sunday evenings on "The Church and Indian Americans." *Workers With Youth, Classmate* and *12/15* will have articles of special interest. *The September issue of* Roundtable *will be the special fall action project issue.*

Special projects suggestions for you:

★ Confer with the minister of your church about how to introduce the theme of the action project to the entire church family on World Order Sunday, October 23.

★ Use POWER as your daily devotional guide. The October-December issue will be written by youth from around the world.

★ Invite a student from another country studying at a nearby college to be a guest of your MYF over Thanksgiving Weekend.

★ Discuss in your MYF council the possibility of your church sponsoring an individual refugee or family in the refugee resettlement program. The Methodist Church has agreed to be responsible for relocating 5000 refugees in the United States before the end of 1956. Send for a refugee resettlement packet, free from the Youth Department, Box 871, Nashville 2, Tenn.

★ Look for further information on giving to a *Disaster Bank* during November for emergency relief needs of the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief.

CUES

★ Choose one project listed in *Supply List* (No. 2278-B) and send materials during the time of the fall action project. This leaflet is free (one to an MYF) from the Youth Department, Box 871, Nashville 2, Tenn.

★ See that your MYF council urges youth to attend a vocations conference to become better acquainted with opportunities for missionary service at home and abroad, and for vocations related to world peace. See that your church sets up a committee on Christian vocations to share information and resources with your MYF.

★ The fall issue of the Methodist Youth Fund *Bulletin* will be devoted to the Fall Action Project. Be sure to plan ways to use this material in your MYF.

★ Send copies of the Spring 1955 issue of the MYFund *Bulletin* to members of your church who are in the armed services. Suggest that they visit those projects located near their points of duty.

★ Look for three special issues of CONCERN on various interests of the action project, (October 10, November 21, December 5).

★ Look for publication of a selected list of plays on missions and world peace. You may want to select one for group reading and another for production during the fall.

★ Look for publication of world friendship reading lists. Some of the books may be used for book reports at school. All of them will be of interest.

★ See that one of the MYF members from your church going to summer assembly, camp or institute is assigned to bring back ideas on missions, world peace and overseas relief.

★ See that one of your MYF members going to the National Convocation of Methodist Youth, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, August 22-26, attends the Here's How Group on the Fall Action Project. And see that he gets other information and resources there that will help interpret the project to the youth in your church.

—BY MAY L. TITUS

Spring brings career clinics

Now that March is supposed to have departed as softly as a lamb and now that spring is officially here, Methodist youth are making time for spring rallies and planning retreats.

One special activity that will be highlighted in many places this spring is the career clinic, or more properly, the conference on Christian vocations.

Convening today in Nashville is a Tennessee Conference MYF program that is typical of other vocations days in purpose and program. Seniors and older youth are urged to spend the day learning about church-related vocations and how to be Christian in other vocations. Besides interest groups on specific vocations, program includes worship, personal interviews and counseling, and a banquet.

What makes the Tennessee Conference program *not* typical is the opportunity that conference has to use staff persons from the general boards that are located in Nashville. And, of course, to have the sweetheart from the Grand Ol' Opry, Minnie Pearl, come out and carry on at the banquet.

Senior class looks at comics

Aroused by the article on horror comics in the 7 January CONCERN, the senior MYF class of the Clear Lake, Wisc. church decided to do some inquiring around town. They thought a survey would reveal what is being rea by the youth of their community.

Paul Streif, teacher of the class, re ported on the comic book evaluatio printed in the March 1954 issue c *The Christian Home*, and then th youth studied objectively the comic they found in four Clear Lake store

Using the *Christian Home* article standards and lists, the group evalu ated the offerings in each of the fou stores. They were disappointed to fin that one store had 36 comics and an other had 57 comics that were no evaluated in the printed list. They ex pressed a feeling that a new listin is needed for general circulation.

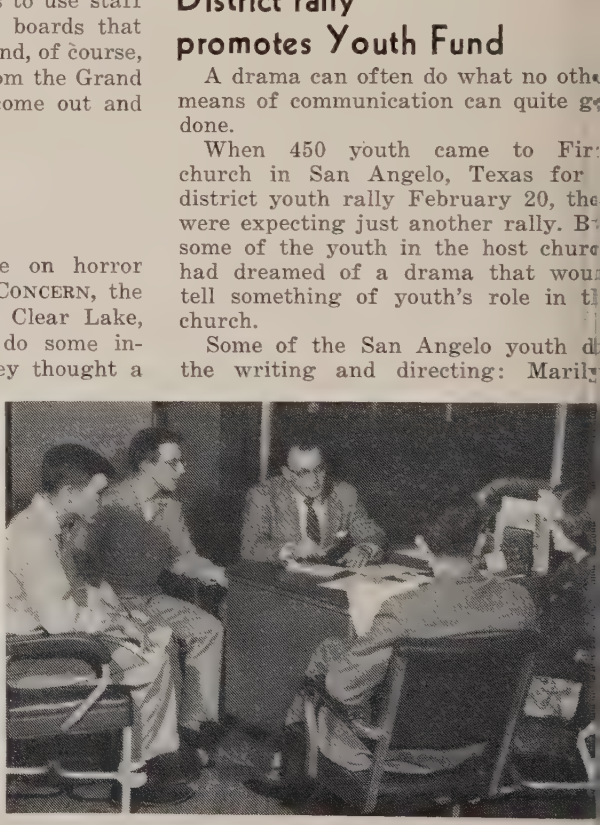
At least, this group is aware of problem and seeking to register i concern about what should be done.

District rally promotes Youth Fund

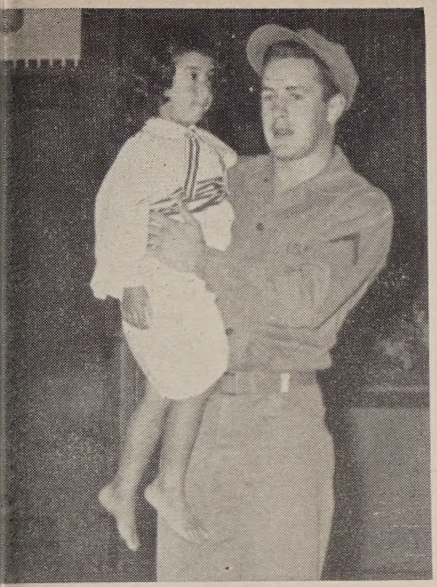
A drama can often do what no oth means of communication can quite g done.

When 450 youth came to Fir church in San Angelo, Texas for district youth rally February 20, the were expecting just another rally. B some of the youth in the host churc had dreamed of a drama that wou tell something of youth's role in t church.

Some of the San Angelo youth d the writing and directing: Marily



Planning committee for the Tennessee Conference's vocations clinic being held today includes (from left) Bill Liddle, Sonny Westenberger, chairman of the committee, James H. Klink, conference director of youth work, Philip M. Ritter, chairman of the conference commission, and LaDelle Fitzgerald.



A life was lost because American youth forgot Christ, according to a drama produced for a district rally in Texas. This scene is the story of a Korean girl who died for lack of medical care in a war-torn country and challenges youth to answer the call of the church. Title of the play: "I Belong."

Jackson, Jenilee Tate, Jesse Duggan, Jimmy Mayfield, assisted by Barbara Jean Rand, director of Christian education.

Key to the drama is a youth's effort to understand the meaning and task of the church school, the MYF, and especially the Methodist Youth Fund. He realizes that any so-called sacrifice he has made in order to give to the Youth Fund was shamefully trivial, and he resolves to keep the motto of the MYF and truly put "Christ Above All."

Following the drama, delegates divided into buzz groups to discuss "What do I believe?" In the evening session, Bishop A. Frank Smith addressed the group.

The Bishop's address was the climax of the host group's own "youth activities week-end." Conjuring up some ideas of their own, the youth put recreation, study and worship into this three-day affair. They based it on the theme of the 1955 Lenten reading project of the MYF.

MYF Roundup

◆ The MYF of the Southwest Conference was quite busy last year, and some of the adults were not quite sure about what. Now they know. At their 1953 summer camp, the youth decided on a special memorial project in memory of Miss Margaret Marshall, a deaconess who has served untiringly in the Southwest Conference with real interest in youth work. The youth decided on a memorial library at Aldersgate Methodist camp in Little Rock. Last summer they gave $100 to camp director M. W. Willis, and MYF'ers are looking forward to seeing their library in use this year.

◆ Flint, Mich. District MYF held its annual mid-winter institute in February at Fenton, with the theme on boy-girl relationships. Some 165 stayed for the whole program, and some 40 more came for one day.

◆ On Race Relations Day, Negro and white MYF'ers in Forrest City, Ark. held a joint meeting and heard representatives from near-by Negro schools tell of educational opportunities available to Negro youth.

◆ Annual youth institute for the Owensboro, Ky. District was held last week-end with youth of more than 40 churches attending. Youth editor Richard Rice of the Nashville staff was among the leaders.

◆ Special feature in the observance of Youth Activities Week at First church in Prairie Du Chien, Wisc. was a youth banquet sponsored by the senior MYF. Some 95 youth attended, heard Boscobel pastor Frank Kirtley outline problems facing youth today and suggest ways to meet them.

◆ The first (and annual, they hope) Youth Activities Week for the Cranberry Subdistrict in the New England Southern Conference was held in early February at East Bridgewater. Under the theme "An Adventure in Learning and Fellowship," the program emphasized development of personal Christian faith and training in program areas of the MYF. Among leaders were subdistrict president Edward Tomasic and conference executive secretary Douglas F. Dorchester. Henry L. Gerner is adviser to the council.

Southwestern elects Negro yearbook queen

For the first time in the school's 70-year history, a Negro student received first honors for Moundbuilder Queen at Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas.

The 1955 queen is Darla Jean Jones, a freshman from Syracuse, Kans. A men's pep club had nominated her for the annual honor. Even the nomination had never before been given to a Negro student. Voting was done by the entire student body.

The election is sponsored by the college yearbook with the winner being featured in the annual edition as the book's queen.

Louisiana MSM studies faith

March 11-13 the Louisiana Methodist Student Movement held its fourth interracial state conference at Northwestern State College in Natchitoches with 185 delegates from 12 schools.

Sterling Wheeler, vice president of Southern Methodist University and former state director of the Texas MSM, was platform speaker. Theme was "Where Is Your Faith?"

Official business of the conference included pledging over $1200 to the Methodist Student Fellowship Fund. The group passed a resolution urging that everything possible be done to work toward an integrated executive council of the Louisiana MSM. Bluff Creek, the Baton Rouge district camp, was adopted as the state MSM's work camp for this summer.

MSM in action

New state officers include Larry Pleimann of L. S. U. as president and Mary Law of Tulane as vice president. Miss Lillian Hay of the Hammond Wesley Foundation is state director.

Georgia group holds its big weekend

For 14 years the Wesley Foundation of Milledgeville, Ga. has served the Methodist students of Georgia State College for Women and Georgia Military College. Every year a highlight in the Foundation's program is a big weekend. This year it came February 12-13.

Main events of the weekend included a banquet and special services for Sunday morning worship. Banquet Sunday morning worship. Banquet theme this year was Fairyland, with Dr. Jack Boozer of Emory University speaking on "Creative Discontent."

Foreign student weekend

Some 20 foreign students took part in the first foreign student weekend sponsored by the World Fellowship Council of First church, Sharon, Pa. Miss Carolyn Callaway, director of Christian education there, said the weekend provided an opportunity for the students to share in American home and church life and give church members a better knowledge of student life. Foreign students from Grove City, Allegheny, Thiel, Westminster and Penn State participated.

Freshman student Darla Jean Jones (right) was elected 1955 yearbook queen at Southwestern College, Winfield, Kans. (See story.) Other candidates were Ann Haney, Joyce Matthews, June Darmstetter, and Jacqueline Ford.

Wandering students find a home in Paris

The general problems of all refugees are much more acute and serious for the young and inexperienced.

It was real concern for student refugees that brought into being a student home at Sevres in the suburb of Paris, France.

Because of the educational opportunities offered by the great city, many refugee students found their way to Paris, too often ended up working for the sheer necessities of food and shelter with their dreams of further education completely frustrated. Such things meant not only the collapse of individual hopes but the unfortunate waste of valuable resources in leadership and culture.

To prevent such personal catastrophes and to combat the needless waste of the fruits of mind and spirit, CIMADE, the French Protestant interchurch committee that coordinates aid to refugees, purchased the Sevres home in 1947 and received its first students in 1948. Professor Paul Evdokimov of the St. Serges Orthodox Seminary in Paris became the counselor and moving spirit of the home.

Today some 30 students live there, representing 18 nationalities. The physical condition of the home has changed considerably since its purchase in 1947. Through the concern of the World Council of Churches funds were obtained from the Ford Foundation in the U. S. to make the house completely liveable. Plumbing and sanitary installations have been renewed, the kitchen provided with a modern stove and refrigerator and the study room, dining room and individual bedrooms have been properly furnished. Repairs to faulty parts of the building have now made it safe and comfortable, although reconstruction is not entirely completed.

Beyond all material improvements one is aware of a more basic transformation. It is not easy for those who have never experienced the plight of the refugee to appreciate the fear and suspicion, the despair and vindictiveness, the pride and prejudice that is produced in the constant struggle for life and freedom against great odds. It took time and patient understanding to break down the barriers created by years of hardship and uncertainty.

The greatest accomplishment of Sevres has been the creation of a home and family spirit among students formerly divided by national, racial, and religious prejudices of long standing. One of the symbols of the new family spirit is the little chapel erected by the students themselves in the garden of the home.

The home has been in existence long enough to form some judgment as to its very real value. It is significant that all former residents are now reported as employed and self-supporting, now pastors, teachers, doctors, nurses, journalists, artists and professionals in many other fields. Under the strong and gentle influence of the Christian faith, needy students have been gathered together to live in a community of purpose and to prepare themselves to make a contribution to the world.

One of the students who found refuge in the Sevres home brought a metal cross that was made by prisoners of war. Students at Sevres cherish this special relic. (See story.)

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